

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a worn article in which a pair of side panels each including two sheet-like materials and an elastic thread sandwiched between the two sheet-like materials are attached to a main body portion, the method comprising the steps of:

feeding ~~the parallel~~ elastic threads between a pair of sheet-like materials along a flow direction of the pair of sheet-like materials so as to obtain a laminate to be the side panels, wherein the ~~parallel~~ elastic threads are continuous in the flow direction of the sheet-like materials and shrink in the flow direction and wherein the elastic threads exert a contractile force on the laminate in a contractile portion, and wherein a first and a second non-contractile portion extending in a direction perpendicular to the low direction and having no contractile force exerted thereon are alternately formed in the laminate at a predetermined interval in the flow direction, a fastening element fastening the side panels to the main body portion during wearing is attached to the second non-contractile portion; thereafter

cutting off the laminate at a predetermined interval in the flow direction to obtain cut panels, ~~and wherein the elastic threads exerts a contractile force on the laminate in a contractile portion, and wherein non-contractile portions extending in a direction perpendicular to the flow direction and having no contractile force exerted thereon are formed in the laminate at a predetermined interval in the flow direction, and, in the step of cutting the laminate to obtain the cut panels, wherein~~ the laminate is cut along the second each non-contractile portion so that each of the cut panel panels includes at least a part of the second non-contractile portion;

wherein in the step of cutting the laminate to obtain the cut panels, the fastening element, together with the laminate, is cut into two pieces so that each of the cut panels includes at least a cut-off fastening element, and

wherein the laminate is cut in the first non-contractile portion to form a pair of cut panels including two of the cut panels adjacent to each other in the flow direction; thereafter

changing an attitude of a ~~the~~ pair of cut panels including two of the cut panels adjacent to each other to an attitude that is obtained by a rotation of about 90 degrees with respect to the flow direction so that the elastic threads extend along the direction perpendicular to the flow direction; thereafter

spacing the attitude-changed pair of cut panels apart from each other in a width direction of the sheet-like materials after the step of changing the attitude of the cut panels; and then

attaching the spaced-apart pair of cut panels to a sheet-like member to be the main body portion in the first non-contractile portions of the pair of cut panels, one on a left side and the other on a right side of the sheet-like member.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a worn article in which a pair of side panels each including two sheet-like materials and ~~an~~ elastic thread threads sandwiched between the two sheet-like materials are attached to a main body portion, the method comprising the steps of:

feeding the ~~an~~ elastic thread threads between a pair of sheet-like materials along a flow direction of the pair of sheet-like materials so as to obtain a laminate to be the side panels; thereafter

cutting the laminate along a cut-off line extending in the flow direction to produce first and second divided laminates, which are separated from each other in a width direction of the sheet-like materials; thereafter

cutting each of the first and second divided laminates at a predetermined interval in the flow direction to obtain a left cut panel and a right cut panel;

spacing the first and second divided laminates apart from each other in the width direction after the step of producing the divided laminates or spacing the left and right cut panels apart from each other in the width direction after the step of obtaining the cut panels; thereafter

changing an attitude of each of the cut ~~panel~~ panels to an attitude that is obtained by a rotation of about 90 degrees with respect to the flow direction so that the elastic thread ~~extends~~ threads extend along a direction perpendicular to the flow

direction wherein the elastic threads in the attitude-changed cut panels extend along a direction perpendicular to a flow direction of the attitude-changed cut panels; and then attaching the left cut panel and the right cut panel, whose attitudes have been changed, on a left side and a right side, respectively, of a sheet-like member to be the main body portion.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a worn article in which a pair of side panels each including two sheet-like materials and ~~an elastic thread~~ threads sandwiched between the two sheet-like materials are attached to a main body portion, the method comprising the steps of:

feeding the an elastic thread threads between a pair of sheet-like materials along a flow direction of the pair of sheet-like materials so as to obtain a laminate to be the side panels, wherein the elastic ~~thread is~~ threads are continuous in the flow direction of the sheet-like materials and shrinks in the flow direction; thereafter

cutting the laminate along a predetermined wave-shaped first cut-off line extending in the flow direction and having peaks and troughs alternate with each other to produce first and second divided laminates, which are separated from each other in a width direction of the sheet-like materials; thereafter

cutting the first divided laminate along a second cut-off line extending in the width direction in each of the troughs of the wave-shaped first cut-off line and also along a third cut-off line extending in the width direction in each of the peaks of the wave-shaped first cut-off line to obtain a pair of first cut panels adjacent to each other in the third cut-off line at a predetermined interval in the flow direction to obtain a pair of first cut panels adjacent each other;

cutting the second divided laminate along a fourth cut-off line extending in the width direction in each of the troughs of the wave-shaped first cut-off line and also along a fifth cut-off line extending in the width direction in each of the peaks of the wave-shaped first cut-off line to obtain a pair of second cut panels adjacent to each other in the fifth cut-off line;

changing an attitude of the pair of first cut panels to an attitude that is obtained by a rotation of about 90 degrees with respect to the flow direction after the step of obtaining the first cut panels;

changing an attitude of the pair of second cut panels to an attitude that is obtained by a rotation of about 90 degrees with respect to the flow direction after the step of obtaining the second cut panels;

spacing the attitude-changed pair of first cut panels apart from each other in the width direction after the step of changing the attitude of the pair of first cut panels;

spacing the attitude-changed pair of second cut panels apart from each other in the width direction after the step of changing the attitude of the pair of second cut panels;

attaching the pair of first cut panels whose attitude has been changed and spaced apart from each other to a sheet-like member to be the main body portion, one on a left side and the other on a right side of the sheet-like member after the steps of changing the attitude of the pair of first cut panels and spacing the attitude-changed pair of first cut panels apart from each other;

attaching the pair of second cut panels whose attitude has been changed and spaced apart from each other to the sheet-like member to be the main body portion, one on the left side and the other on the right side of the sheet-like member after the steps of changing the attitude of the pair of second cut panels and spacing the attitude-changed pair of second cut panels apart from each other.

cutting the second divided laminate at a predetermined interval in the flow direction to obtain a pair of second cut panels adjacent each other;

changing an attitude of the pair of second cut panels to an attitude that is obtained by a rotation of about 90 degrees with respect to the flow direction; and

attaching the pair of second cut panels whose attitude has been changed to the sheet-like member to be the main body portion, one on the left side and the other on the right side of the sheet-like member.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 1, wherein the main body portion comprises a front torso portion covering a front torso

area of a wearer, a crotch portion covering a crotch area of the wearer, and a rear torso portion covering a rear torso area of the wearer.

the side panels are attached to right and left sides of the rear torso portion respectively, wherein in the step of cutting off the laminate, the laminate is cut off obliquely with respect to a direction perpendicular to the flow direction in the second non-contractile portion so that an extent of each side panel's protrusion from the main body portion becomes smaller from the rear torso portion to the crotch portion,

each of the cut ~~panel~~ panels forms a side panel without being trimmed.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 1, wherein in the step of feeding the elastic ~~thread~~ threads to obtain the laminate to be the side panels, the elastic ~~thread~~ threads are is fed between the pair of sheet-like materials while the elastic ~~thread is~~ threads are being extended in the flow direction to produce the laminate, and

after producing the laminate, the elastic ~~thread~~ threads of the laminate or the cut panels are is relaxed so as to form gathers in the laminate or the cut panels.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a worn article in which a pair of side panels are attached to a left side and a right side of a main body portion, the method comprising the steps of:

cutting a continuous sheet-like laminate, the laminate comprising ~~parallel~~ elastic threads along a flow direction of the laminate between a pair of sheet-like materials, which is being carried, along a first cut-off line extending in the ~~the~~ flow direction of the laminate to form first and second divided laminates, the first cut-off line having a wave shape of a predetermined wavelength and having peaks and troughs alternate with each other; thereafter

cutting the first divided laminate at a predetermined interval in the flow direction along a second cut-off line extending in a width direction of the laminate perpendicular to the flow direction in each of the peaks of the wave-shaped first cut-off line and also

along a third cut-off line extending in the width direction in each of the troughs of the wave-shaped first cut-off line to produce, for every iteration of the wavelength, a first cut panel and a second cut panel being generally in line symmetry with each other;

cutting the second divided laminate at a predetermined interval in the flow direction along a fourth cut-off line extending in the width direction in each of the peaks of the wave-shaped first cut-off line and also along a fifth cut-off line extending in the width direction in each of the troughs of the wave-shaped first cut-off line to produce, for every iteration of the wavelength, a third cut panel and a fourth cut panel being generally in line symmetry with each other;

spacing the first cut panel and the second cut panel apart from each other in the flow direction after the step of producing the first and second cut panels;

spacing the third cut panel and the fourth cut panel apart from each other in the flow direction after the step of producing the third and fourth cut panels;

changing an attitude of each of the first and second cut panels to an attitude that is obtained by a rotation of about 90 degrees with respect to the flow direction after the step of spacing the first and second cut panels apart from each other;

changing an attitude of each of the third and fourth cut panels to an attitude that is obtained by a rotation of about 90 degrees with respect to the flow direction after the step of spacing the third and fourth cut panels apart from each other;

increasing a distance between the first cut panel and the second cut panel in a width direction of the laminate, which is generally perpendicular to the flow direction after the step of changing the attitude of the first and second cut panels;

increasing a distance between the third cut panel and the fourth cut panel in the width direction of the laminate after the step of changing the attitude of the third and fourth cut panels;

~~changing an attitude of each of the third and fourth cut panels to an attitude that is obtained by a rotation of about 90 degrees with respect to the flow direction;~~

~~increasing a distance between the third cut panel and the fourth cut panel in the width direction of the laminate;~~

attaching the first cut panel on a left side and the second or third cut panel on a right side of a sheet-like member to be the main body portion, [1] and attaching the fourth

cut panel on the left side and the third or second cut panel on the right side of the sheet-like member to be the main body portion after the steps of increasing the distance between the first and second cut panels and increasing the distance between the third and fourth cut panels.

9. (Original) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 8, further comprising a step of aligning the first cut panel and the fourth cut panel with each other in the flow direction while aligning the second cut panel and the third cut panel with each other in the flow direction.

10. (Original) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 8, wherein in the step of cutting the continuous sheet-like laminate to form the first and second divided laminates, the divided laminates are formed with a phase of the first divided laminate being shifted from that of the second divided laminate in the flow direction by one half of the wavelength.

11-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 3, wherein each of the first and second cut panel panels forms a side panel without being trimmed.

16. (Previously Amended) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 2, further comprising a step of attaching a fastening element to the laminate, the fastening element being used for fastening the side panels to the main body portion when the worn article is worn,

wherein in the step of cutting the laminate to obtain the cut panels, the fastening element, together with the laminate, is cut into two pieces so that each cut panel includes at least a cut-off fastening element.

17. (Previously Amended) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 3, further comprising a step of attaching a fastening element to the laminate, the fastening element being used for fastening the side panels to the main body portion when the worn article is worn,

wherein in the step of cutting the laminate to obtain the cut panels, the fastening element, together with the laminate, is cut into two pieces so that each cut panel includes at least a cut-off fastening element.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 2, wherein the elastic ~~thread exerts~~ threads exert a contractile force on the laminate in a contractile portion, and wherein non-contractile portions extending in a direction perpendicular to the flow direction and having no contractile force exerted thereon are formed in the laminate at a predetermined interval in the flow direction, and, in the step of cutting the laminate to obtain the cut panels, the laminate is cut along each non-contractile portion so that each ~~of the cut panel~~ panels includes at least a part of the non-contractile portion, and in the step of attaching the pair of cut panels to the sheet-like member to be the main body portion, a part of the non-contractile portions of the cut panels is attached to the sheet-like member.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 3, wherein the elastic ~~thread exerts~~ threads exert a contractile force on the laminate in a contractile portion, and wherein non-contractile portions extending in a direction perpendicular to the flow direction and having no contractile force exerted thereon are formed in the laminate at a predetermined interval in the flow direction, and, in the step of cutting the laminate to obtain the cut panels, the laminate is cut along each non-contractile portion so that each ~~of the cut panel~~ panels includes at least a part of the non-contractile portion, and in the step of attaching the pair of cut panels to the sheet-like member to be the main body portion, a part of the non-contractile portions of the cut panels is attached to the sheet-like member.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 2, wherein in the step of feeding the elastic threads to obtain the laminate to be the side panels, the elastic ~~thread is~~ threads are fed between the pair of sheet-like materials while the elastic ~~thread is~~ threads are being extended in the flow direction to produce the laminate, and

after producing the laminate, the elastic ~~thread~~ threads of the laminate or the cut panels ~~are is~~ relaxed so as to form gathers in the laminate or the cut panels.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 3, wherein in the step of feeding the elastic threads to obtain the laminate to be the side panels, the elastic ~~thread is~~ threads are fed between the pair of sheet-like materials while the elastic ~~thread is~~ threads are being extended in the flow direction to produce the laminate, and

after producing the laminate, the elastic ~~thread~~ threads of the laminate or the cut panels ~~are is~~ relaxed so as to form gathers in the laminate or the cut panels.

22. (New) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 2, wherein, in the step of obtaining the laminate, the elastic threads are continuous in the flow direction of the sheet-like materials and shrink in the flow direction and wherein the elastic threads exert a contractile force on the laminate in a contractile portion, and wherein a first and a second non-contractile portion extending in a direction perpendicular to the flow direction and having no contractile force exerted thereon are alternately formed in the laminate at a predetermined interval in the flow direction, fastening elements fastening the side panels to the main body portion during wearing is attached to the second non-contractile portion,

wherein in the step of obtaining the cut panels the first and second divided laminates are cut in the first and second non-contractile portions and

when the first and second divided laminates are cut in the second non-contractile portion, each of the fastening elements, together with the first and second divided laminates, is cut into two pieces so that each of the cut panels includes at least a cut-off fastening element.

23. (New) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 22, wherein the main body portion comprises a front torso portion covering a front torso area of a wearer, a crotch portion covering a crotch area of the wearer, and a rear torso portion covering a rear torso area of the wearer,

the side panels are attached to right and left sides of the rear torso portion respectively, wherein in the step of obtaining the cut panels the first and second laminates are cut off obliquely with respect to a direction perpendicular to the flow direction in the second non-contractile portion so that an extent of each side panel's protrusion from the main body portion becomes smaller from the rear torso portion to the crotch portion.